

REMARKS

Claims 1-5 and 7-28 are presented for examination; Claims 1, 2, 7, 16, 17, 18, 27 and 28 are in independent form. Claim 1 has been amended to clarify the claim language with no change of scope. Thus, this Amendment is to be viewed as a traversal of the art rejection. Allowable Claim 2 has been rewritten in independent form, and Claim 5 has been amended to specifically recite the claims it depends from, again no change in scope. Claim 6 has been cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer of subject matter. Claims 7-28 have been added.

The specification has been carefully reviewed and amended as to a matter of form, including that kindly pointed out in the Office Action. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the objection to the specification is respectfully requested.

Applicants note with appreciation the indication that Claims 2 and 3 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form. Since Claim 2 has been so rewritten and Claim 3 depends from Claim 2, they are now believed to be in condition for allowance.

Claims 1, 4 and 6 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as obvious from U.S. Patent No. 6,388,993 to *Shin*. Claim 5 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as obvious from *Shin* in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,157,967.

The cancellation of Claim 6 obviates the rejection thereof.

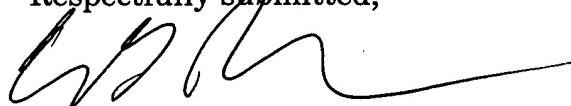
Applicants note with appreciation the courtesies extended by Examiners Rao and Abelson in a personal interview with Applicants' undersigned representative. At the interview Applicants presented Claims 7-17, and it was agreed that the claims distinguish over the art of record. It was further agreed that the Examiner would further review the subject application and conduct a further search.

Applicants note that newly added Claims 18-28 are means claims which correspond to Claims 7-17, respectively.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicants respectfully request favorable reconsideration and early passage to issue of the present application.

Respectfully submitted,



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